

in the months of January and March. The old-fashioned and mostly erroneous nomenclature of Gay is employed instead of James's New Chilian List; and we fear that the names cannot always be relied upon:—for example, the so-called "*Turdus fuscater*," which is resident at Peñaflores, no doubt, *T. magellanicus*. Other errors are obvious, and M. Lataste should send his specimens home for determination if he cannot distinguish them himself.

37. *Winge on the Birds observed at the Danish Light-stations in 1893.*

[Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1893. 11te Aarsberetning om danske Fugle. Ved Herluf Winge. Vidensk. Medd. naturh. Foren. i Kjøbenhavn, 1894, p. 15.]

Mr. Winge's eleventh annual report on the birds met with at the Danish Light-stations is drawn up in his habitually clear and exhaustive manner. Thirty-six stations sent 780 specimens of birds in 1893, which are referred to 56 species. The usual field-notes are given, and an outline map shows the exact position of the various light-houses.

XIV.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters, addressed to the Editors, since our last issue:—

SIRS,—With reference to the article "Ornithology at Munich, Stuttgart, Darmstadt, Frankfort, and Cassel," in 'The Ibis' of January last (p. 106), I beg leave to address you a few lines.

The "Zoologisch-zootomische Sammlung" at Munich belongs to the State. It is true there are no official ornithologists attached thereto, but some gentlemen residing at Munich, who are chiefly conversant with Bavarian ornithology (such as the undersigned), would most willingly have undertaken to conduct Mr. Selater, and have given him all the information at their disposal concerning German and Bavarian birds.

It is certainly to be regretted that the above-named Institute does not employ its own ornithologist, in order to preserve from decay this valuable collection and to supplement it where necessary.

Of skins there are but a limited number. A separate collection of Bavarian birds, unfortunately, does not exist in our Museum; but such a collection, of rare completeness and of great interest, is to be found in the Museum of the "Naturwissenschaftlicher Verein für Schwaben und Neuberg" at Augsburg. In the Museum at Munich I should, however, mention a not unimportant series of varieties of colour and of hybrids, which occupies a separate case.

Mr. Selater saw at both Stuttgart and at Frankfort a specimen of *Alca impennis*. Munich possesses two more. One of the birds, marked "Island, 1833," formed part of the late Duke of Leuchtenberg's collection. The other is labelled "Eismeer, 1836."

Yours &c.,

München, Klenzstrasse,
Sept. 14, 1894.

C. PARROT, M.D.

SIRS,—Referring to Mr. Ogilvie-Grant's description of a new species of Guinea-fowl in 'The Ibis' for October, I find that I have possessed for two years a fragmentary specimen of the new *Numida reichenowi*, sent me by Mr. C. F. Smith from Mengo, Uganda. I took it to the British Museum, along with my fragments of *Pternistes rufopictus*, but neither Mr. Grant nor I then noted the marked peculiarities of the species. My fragment consists only of head, neck, shoulders, and breast.

Yours &c.,

October 11, 1894.

H. B. TRISTRAM.

SIRS,—I have been much interested in your summary of the present state of our knowledge of the Birds of Antarctica. May I add a note as a small contribution? I possess two skins, one of *Pagodroma nivea* and one of *Chionis alba*, given me by my venerable friend, the late Dr. W. Gunn, R.N., who was surgeon of H.M.S. 'Terror' in the Antarctic Ex-

pedition under Sir John Ross. He valued the specimens exceedingly, as he believed them to be the only ones ever procured actually on the Antarctic Continent. He told me that he was the first person who set foot on shore after Sir John Ross, and that as they were walking on the ice he saw the Sheathbill running along the edge and shot it. Shortly afterwards he shot the White Petrel, which was retrieved by the boat. The birds are labelled "H.M.S. 'Terror,' 1842, lat. 78° South." I cannot find any record of the White Sheathbill having been taken further south than lat. 64°.

Yours &c.,

Durham, October 31, 1894.

H. B. TRISTRAM.

SIRS,—In September last a variety of the Solitary Pigeon, or "Monte Dove" (*Engyptila chalconia*), almost white, was brought by a peon to a friend of mine residing in the Department of Flores in the Banda Oriental. I believe that "white varieties" are not very common among wild Pigeons.

Yours &c.,

Bloxham, Oxon,
November 12, 1894.

O. V. APLIN.

SIRS,—In response to the request for information as to how the birds of prey carry their legs in flight ('Ibis,' 1894, pp. 557 & 558), I venture to inform you that on August 12th last, while walking from Brunswick to Wolfenbüttel, I saw a large Hawk, probably a Goshawk, the legs of which were certainly carried projecting backwards, like those of the Stork. I regret very much that I had no glasses with me, and so was unable to identify the bird with certainty (having never seen *Astur palumbarius* in a wild state before). I watched it, however, for some little time, as on its first appearance at some distance away it had a distinctly Stork-like appearance on the wing, and I was quite unprepared to find this bird carrying its legs in flight in this manner.

Yours &c.,

GERALD E. H. BARRETT-HAMILTON.

Kilmanock, New Ross, Ireland,
October 29, 1894.

SIRS,—With reference to a query in the last number of 'The Ibis,' as to the manner in which birds of prey carry their legs when in flight, I have no hesitation in confirming Mr. Hartert's opinion that the legs are carried stretched out behind under the tail. This is easily seen when Eagles or Falcons flying at hack are soaring over one's head. I have also repeatedly noticed it in tame Kites and Buzzards when living at liberty. In trained Falcons it can most easily be observed, either in a bird waiting on low over head, or in one raking at the lure. In the stoop the legs may plainly be seen to drop from behind at the moment of clutching, and, if successful in clutching, of trussing the quarry, and to be *again* extended behind when carrying on.

Yours &c.,

Rope Hill, Lymington,
October 28, 1894.

E. G. MEADE-WALDO.

SIRS,—Referring to Mr. Blanford's letter in 'The Ibis' for April 1894, regarding the occurrence of *Emberiza schœnichus* and *Circus cyaneus* near Calcutta, I think that as the former specimen was not secured I ought hardly to have included it in my list, though at the time I was satisfied that it was of this species.

Circus cyaneus was named, and wrongly, as I now find, from the wings and legs, as well as a written description, of two birds that I shot; and I am much obliged to Mr. Blanford for having correctly identified them as belonging to *Circus melanoleucus*, a young male and an adult female.

Both *C. cyaneus* and *C. melanoleucus* having the 5th primary notched externally, and the extraordinary difference in the plumage of the sexes of *C. melanoleucus*, have led to the confusion of the two species. The notes, then, that I have made on *C. melanoleucus* ('Ibis,' 1894, p. 62) have reference only to adult males of this species; and those on *C. cyaneus* to females and immature examples of *C. melanoleucus*.

Yours &c.,

Laverstoke,
November 1, 1894.

PHILIP W. MUNN.

Errata in Mr. Rickett's Paper.—Mr. C. B. Rickett wishes to call attention to two errors in nomenclature which occur in his paper on Foochow birds, published in 'The Ibis' for April 1894. The Swallow recorded (page 222) as *Hirundo erythrogastra* should stand as *Hirundo tytleri*, and *Alca umisuzume* (p. 225) should be *Alca antiqua*.

The "Scomber-scomber" Principle.—In reference to some remarks on the "*Scomber-scomber*" principle ('Ibis,' 1894, p. 566), a much valued correspondent writes as follows:—

"It has for a long while seemed to me that this so-called principle originated in a printer's error. In the 10th edition of the 'S. N.' Linnæus had '*Scomber Scombrus*'—and in each of the two copies of the 12th edition formerly belonging to him, and now in the possession of the Linnean Society, you will see that the marginal '*Scomber*' is corrected into '*Scombrus*,' by Linnæus's own hand, so far as I can judge.

"Everybody who has had experience of printers knows how apt they are to make a mistake of this kind. They are hard to persuade that two words may be nearly alike and yet intended to differ slightly. It is pretty evident that the printer of the 12th edition, seeing '*Scomber*' in more than one place, thought that '*Scomber*' should stand everywhere, and altered '*Scombrus*' accordingly; but the corrected copies show that this was not Linnæus's intention, and no doubt if he had lived to publish a new edition of the 'S. N.' (for which one of these copies was being corrected) it would have contained '*Scombrus*,' just as the 10th does."—P. L. S.

Tinamous at Washington.—With reference to the Editorial note in 'The Ibis' for July last ('Ibis,' 1894, p. 453) Mr. F. A. Lucas kindly informs us that Tinamous were sold last winter in the market at Washington as "English Partridges," having been brought there from England along with Pheasants and other European game-birds.

The Bird-Collection at Zurich.—Passing through Zurich in September last the writer devoted an hour to the exami-

Handwritten text on aged, yellowed paper, possibly a manuscript or letter. The text is written in a cursive script and is mostly illegible due to fading and the texture of the paper. The document appears to be a single page with a header section at the top and a main body of text below. There are some dark spots and stains, particularly near the center and bottom, which may be ink blots or water damage. The paper is slightly wrinkled and has a mottled appearance.

the date when) they were collected ; besides which the names have been entered in a systematic manuscript list. This collection fills 33 cabinets with 30 drawers each, the eggs themselves being placed in glass-topped boxes filled with cotton-wool.

Three new groups of mounted specimens, illustrating the nesting-habits of British Birds, have been completed, namely, those of the Greater Black-backed Gull, the Dotterel, and the Greenfinch. A group of Swifts (*Collocalia fuciphaga*), producers of the so-called "edible Swallow-nests," with their nests attached to the rock, has been added to the general collection. Mr. C. Hose, who collected the materials in one of the celebrated caves in Sarawak, has personally superintended the construction and mounting of this group.

Eleven thousand four hundred and twenty-six specimens of Skins and Eggs have been added to the general collection of Birds during the financial year 1893-4. Of those additions the following are the more important :—

A pair of very fine Ostriches (*Struthio australis*), from Halesowen Farm, Cradock, Cape Colony, purchased ; also the skeleton of a female bird from the same locality, presented by Captain W. Hume Middlemass.

Two specimens of the true Prairie Hen Grouse (*Tympanuchus cupido*), from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts ; purchased.

Fifty-four birds from Suakim ; presented by Surgeon-Captain R. H. Penton.

A specimen of a rare Grouse (*Tetraophasis szechenyi*), from Thibet, and one of the Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*), from Mongolia, both new to the collection ; presented by Henry Seebohm, Esq.

A specimen of a Partridge (*Hematortyx sanguiniceps*) from Mount Kina Balu ; presented by A. H. Everett, Esq.

Eighty-three birds from Mount Kalulong and Baram, in Sarawak ; presented by Charles Hose, Esq.

The type-specimens of *Turdinus kalulongæ*, *T. tephrops*, and *Glaucidium borneense*, from Mount Kalulong, in Sarawak, collected by Charles Hose, Esq. ; purchased.

Twenty-three specimens from Mount Penrisen and Mount Poeh, in Sarawak, including the types of a new species of Spider-hunter (*Arachnothera everetti*), collected by A. H. Everett, Esq.; purchased.

Fourteen specimens from the Chatham Islands; purchased.

One hundred and nine eggs from Gippsland, Australia; presented by F. A. Philbrick, Esq., Q.C.

Two hundred and twenty-one Birds from Australia; presented by Lord Leigh.

A supposed new Ratite Bird.—At the Meeting of the Zoological Society of London on Nov. 20th, Mr. R. Lydekker exhibited and made remarks on a model and a photograph of a bird's egg from Patagonia, supposed to be the egg of an undescribed species of Ratite bird. Mr. Lydekker describes this mysterious egg at fuller length in the last number of 'Knowledge' (Dec. 1st, 1894), and gives a figure of it from the "only known specimen preserved in the Museum of La Plata." Dr. H. P. Moreno, the Director of that museum, has supplied Mr. Lydekker with the following account of it:—"When exploring, some years ago, in the interior of Patagonia, Dr. Moreno saw numbers of small flightless birds, which he at first took to be young Rheas. Struck, however, by seeing numerous parties of these birds, as well as by the absence among them of any of the ordinary Rheas which might be their parents, he was soon led to discard this view. On asking the Indians by whom he was accompanied whether they knew the birds, Dr. Moreno was informed that they were perfectly familiar with them, and knew them to be a small kind of Rhea. Being, unfortunately, unable to obtain specimens, Dr. Moreno, on his return, asked a friend, who had travelled in the same district, whether he had any knowledge of the birds. The reply was that, not only did he know them well and had often seen them, but that he actually had in his possession an egg which he had picked up. Naturally anxious to obtain such a treasure, Dr. Moreno asked if his friend would present the egg to the Museum—a request which was promptly and gracefully granted. From

that time (some ten years ago) till the present day, this priceless and unique specimen has lain undescribed in the La Plata Museum."

Margarita, West Indies.—As there has been some talk of sending a naturalist to Margarita, on the coast of Venezuela, it may be useful to call attention to the interesting narrative of a visit to the Island lately made by Dr. J. F. Chittenden, C.M.Z.S., of Trinidad, who gives a very favourable account of it ('Timehri,' n. s. vii. p. 56) as a health-resort. Riding from Pampotar to Porlamar (the chief port) through the Llanos, Dr. Chittenden says that birds of every variety and in gay plumage were abundant. He never saw so many together out of an aviary. It seems that Margarita is easily accessible from Carúpano, in Venezuela.

Appointments to the Staff of the Field Columbian Museum at Chicago.—We learn from our contemporary 'The Auk' that our friend Mr. D. G. Elliot has been added to the scientific staff of the Field Columbian Museum of Chicago, he having recently been appointed Director of the Department of Zoology; also that Mr. George K. Cherrie, for the last six years connected with the Museo Nacional at San José, Costa Rica, has retired from the service of the Costa-Rican Government, and has accepted the position of Assistant in the Department of Ornithology at the same Museum, of which, as already announced ('Ibis,' 1894, p. 580), Mr. C. B. Cory has recently been made Curator. There can be no doubt that the Field Columbian Museum has thus secured the services of three very able men.

Dr. R. W. Shufeldt's Address.—Our esteemed correspondent Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, we are pleased to learn, has been appointed "Associate in Zoology" at the Smithsonian Institution. His future address will therefore be "Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., U.S.A."